

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title as follows:

~~Data and~~ Power and Electrical Signal Interface for a Therapeutic Bed

Please amend paragraph 1 as follows:

[0001] This application is a divisional of patent application Ser. No. 09/821,552 filed Mar. 29, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,671,905, entitled "PRONE POSITIONING THERAPEUTIC BED." This application also claims priority for commonly disclosed subject matter to patent application Ser. No. 09/884,749 filed June 19, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,566,833, similarly entitled "PRONE POSITIONING THERAPEUTIC BED," which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 09/821,552. This application also claims priority for commonly disclosed subject matter to PCT/IE02/00085, filed June 26, 2002, entitled "BED WITH POSITION CHANGE FACILITY," which claims priority to Ireland Application No. S2001/0589, filed June 26, 2001.

Please add a new paragraph after paragraph 35 as follows:

FIG. 22 is a block diagram illustrating a direct electrical connection between a base frame and a patient monitoring device connected to a patient support platform.

Please amend paragraph 47 as follows:

[0047] FIGS. 8 through 13 and 22 illustrate an apparatus at the foot of bed 10 for supplying a direct electrical connection between non-rotating base frame 16 and a patient monitoring device 300 connected to a rotating patient support platform 20. As best shown in FIGS. 8 and 13, end ring 24, which is fastened to rotating patient support platform 20, is also connected to an annular channel 126 that serves as a housing for a cable carrier 148. Cable carrier 148 carries an electrical cable 253 ~~(not shown)~~ comprising power, ground, and signal wires as is customary in the art. Channel 126, which preferably has a C-shaped cross-section, may be attached to end ring 24 by way of support bars 192. Because channel 126 is attached to

end ring 24, channel 126 rotates with patient support platform 20. As shown in FIGS. 12 and 13, an annular cover 198 is connected to upright foot frame 144, which extends upward from base frame 16. Cover 198 is preferably mounted on a ring 196 with fasteners 200, and ring 196 is preferably mounted to support bars 194 that extend from stiffeners 144a of foot frame 144. Cover 198, which is preferably made of metal to shield cable carrier 148 from radio frequency signals external of bed 10, is positioned longitudinally adjacent channel 126 to retain cable carrier 148 within channel 126, but cover 198 is not connected to channel 126. Thus, channel 126 is free to rotate with end ring 24, but cover 198 is stationary. One end 150 of cable carrier 148 is attached to channel 126, and the other end 152 of cable carrier 148 is attached to cover 198. The length of cable carrier 148 is preferably sufficient to allow patient support platform 20 to rotate a little more than 360 degrees in either direction. This arrangement provides a direct, wire-based electrical connection to the rotating part of bed 10 while still allowing a complete rotation of patient support platform 20 in either direction.